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1947

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E 9051

PALESTINE

OCT

Registry Number

E 9051/951/31

FROM

D. Burk

No.

Bogdod

Dated

3/4/1

Received in Registry

18 Sept
1 Oct.

Protest against U.N.S.C.O.P. Recommendations

Transmit copy of memo handed over on Sept 15 by President of Independence Party. This followed meeting held by the party to protest against the recommendations of U.N.S.C.O.P.

Last Paper

9040

References

(Print)

61880

(How disposed of)

8, 60
✓ Oct 15

(Action completed)

G E/M 24/10

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]
20/10/48

Next Paper

905-14

(Minutes.)

Copies

[Handwritten signature]
12/10.
copy attached

M.S. Burt
Oct. 1

Mr Burk has already drawn attention in an s/o letter to the ~~significance~~ attendance of the Prime Minister and Minister for Social Affairs at this meeting as a sign of that the extreme nationalist feeling is growing in Iraq, and that the Govt consequently feels it necessary to pay increased attention to it.

[Handwritten initials]
V 5/1

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References:

FO 371 / 61880

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E 9051

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BAGDAD.

18th September, 1947.

No. 341
(512/98/47).

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum which was handed to me on September 15th by the President and Secretary of the Independence Party.

2. This followed on a meeting held by the Party on 11th September to protest against the recommendations of U.N.S.C.O.P. This Party, the Hizb al Istiqlal, is the farthest to the right of Iraqi Parties and its membership consists primarily of supporters of Rashid Ali al Gailani, many of them being internees. The meeting is reported to have been attended by about 850 persons, among them the Prime Minister and the Minister for Social Affairs, which indicates that the Independence Party is meeting with some success in its attempt to exploit the popular resentment aroused by the proposals of U.N.S.C.O.P. The President of the Party made a violent speech, in which he said that, should Britain and America continue to antagonise the Arabs for the sake of the Jews, the Arabs should seek support from any other major power which might be interested in the Middle East.

3. On behalf of the Party the President put forward eight demands to the Arab League:-

- (1) Palestine is to be declared an independent Arab state recognised by all other Arab states.
- (2) An end must be put to Zionist activities and a siege be made round Palestine from both the land and sea to prevent the infiltration of Zionists into the Holy Land.
- (3) All Jews who have entered Palestine or any other Arab state since 1914 are to be considered as temporary immigrants and must be ejected.
- (4) Decisive action must be taken to prevent the sale of Arab lands to Jews.
- (5) All Arab fighters must be recognised as men of arms entitled to all rights of the soldier.
- (6) The opening of recruiting offices in all Arab countries, for the enlistment of all volunteers who wish to fight in Palestine.
- (7) Special Trade offices are to be established in order to contact trade circles in

/ countries

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

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countries which support the Arab case. This is a preliminary step to the boycotting of British and American goods.

(8) Every effort must be made to disarm the Zionists.

4. Both my visitors, Mohammad Mehdi Kubba and Faiq Samarraï, have a long record of intransigent nationalist politics. The latter was appointed Director of Municipalities by the Rashid Ali Government and was subsequently interned for the greater part of the war period.

5. The interview was short, Kubba made much the same points as are made in the memorandum, but couched them in more conciliatory terms. In reply I made three points.

(a) That the U.N.S.C.O.P. proposals were only recommendations, which would be fully discussed before being adopted by the United Nations Assembly.

(b) That His Majesty's Government could not be compelled even by a decision of United Nations Organisation to carry out any policy, unless His Majesty's Government were convinced of its justice and practicability.

(c) That I was keeping His Majesty's Government fully informed of the state of public opinion in Iraq on the Palestine question.

6. On leaving I was asked whether I would object to the publication of what I had said. I replied that I had no objection. An account of the interview was accordingly published in the Party organ, which gave on the whole a fair picture of what had passed.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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COPY.

Translation.

Headquarters,
Al Istiqlal Party.

Dated: 12th September, 1947.

To: His Honour the Charge d'Affaires,
British Embassy.

Blessed Compliment,

British policy has most bitterly exploited time after time the clear inclination of the Arabs to endeavour to solve their problems by mutual understanding in an atmosphere unclouded by terrorism such as that to which the Zionists have resorted.

The British Government has submitted to this Zionist terrorism and has taken no stringent measures, military or political, to ward it off, nor has it resorted to the use of force, as it did in disarming the Arabs of Palestine when they rose up against Zionist tyranny and imperialistic policy, although they, the Arabs in their rebellion did not go beyond the limits of self-defence against the armed British Forces which most cruelly and harshly aimed at exterminating their just national movement for liberation, a movement to which they had been driven out of despair of reaching an understanding over the solution of their problem. A problem which had been imposed on them by imperialism in spite of international pledges and promises and in contravention of the correct understanding of the right of self-determination, and of justice and humanity.

Britain has neglected all the dangers and the harm resulting from the arming of Zionists. She armed them during the war in order that she might use their aggression as an excuse for this treacherous policy against the Arabs. In this aggressive movement, Great Britain has been joined by

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the Government of the United States of America which also aims at turning Palestine into an imperialist bastion and an open market for her trade in the Middle East. The Government of America, which has exerted great endeavours in the cause of its freedom and in its adherence to the principle of self-determination, has come to join with Britain in this policy. Both Governments have agreed to increase their aggression against the Arabs and to crush down humanitarian principles in all the decisions adopted by them, the latest being the recommendations of the United Nations Organization Fact-Finding Commission.

The people of Iraq, backed by the Arab nation, in view of its long experience of similar organizations since the establishment of the League of Nations and up to the present time, fully realises what such international organizations amount to. It knows that the world is to-day split into two large groups, the first is what is called the Western Democracies led by America and England, and the second is the Eastern Democracies led by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Any decision taken by the first group is considered by the (Iraqi) people as emanating from the Governments of Britain and America themselves and as constituting an act of aggression against Iraq and other Arab countries. It thus becomes the right of these countries to defend themselves against this aggression with all the strength and force at their command. These (reasons) induce these countries to put pressure on their Governments to sever diplomatic and economic relations with these two states and to relinquish the protection of the revenues and installations owned by these two States in the Arab East, and to rally to the

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support of the Arabs of Palestine by bloodshed, as is required by close relations and self-defence.

The thousands of people assembled at the large meeting held to-day by Al Istiqlal Party at Bagdad support this viewpoint, and request Your Excellency to communicate it to your Government in order that it may acquaint itself with the danger which will accrue as a result of its aggressive policy.

U.E.

(Sgd.) Muhammad Hassan Kubba.

President,
Al Istiqlal Party.

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1947

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E 9054

PALESTINE

OCT

Registry Number E9054/957/31
 FROM 40 minutes
 No.
 Dated 26 Sept
 Received in Registry 1, Oct.

Palistin, Greek support of Arab base.
 Greek representatives in New York, has been approached by Syrian Representative who told him that Palistin was the focal of the policy of the Syrian Govt and indeed of the whole Arab League and that if Greek Govt did not support Arab base after Palistin, then Syria would not be able to support the Greek base.

Last Paper

9057

(Minutes.)

UN (Pol.) Dept.
 JB out. 1

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

- Ad New York 3187
 - Rptd. W. Ton 9931
 - Advent 1956
 - Damascus 500
 - Bairo 1799
 - Beruit 51
 - Teheran 30
 - Boghdad 46
 - Amman 35
- dent 26.

(Action completed)

J. C. M. 4/10

(Index)

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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Registry
No. E

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Secret.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Restricted.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open.	<input type="checkbox"/>

I.
P.
G.

E 9054 F. O.,

207/ September 1947.

Despatched 7-0 A M.

Draft.

Sir A. Cadogan,
New York.

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

Telegram. ✓

No. 3187

(Date) Sept 26

Repeat to:—

Washington no: 9931
 Athens no: 1956
 Damascus no: 500
 Cairo no: 1799

Saving:

Beirut no: 51 *camp*
 Jedda no: 30 *camp*
 Bagdad no: 46 *camp*
 Amman no: 35 *camp*

Ashton Dept
Yels.
26/9

Ex-Clair.

Code x

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Cabinet

Copies to:—

(To a member of this Dept)

Greek Ambassador stated on 26th September that he had received a telegram from the Greek Ambassador in Washington to the effect that Greek representative in New York had been approached by the Syrian Representative, who had told him that the Palestine issue was the focal point of the policy of the Syrian Government, and indeed, of the whole Arab League, and that if the Greek Government did not support the Arab case over Palestine in the General Assembly, then Syria would not be able to support the Greek case, in the Security Council. Greek Ambassador in Washington had informed the State Department of this approach and State Department had replied that they fully understood the position and had no objection to the Greek Government supporting the Arab case.

2. Greek Ambassador was informed that H.M.G. would not wish to influence the decision of the Greek Government in the matter and that Greek Government should act as seemed best to them.

3. ~~The Greek Ambassador was told that Syrian representative's tactics made an unfavourable impression~~

CRAN
26/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(1955) Wt. 49897-140 100m 3147 G.S.S. Gp 620

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61880

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E.

Confidential.

Cypher/OTP.

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 5187.

D. 7.00 a.m. 27th September, 1947.

26th September, 1947.

Repeated to Washington No. 9931
Athens No. 1956
Damascus No. 500
Cairo No. 1799
Beirut No. 51 Saving
Jedda No. 30 Saving
Bagdad No. 46 Saving
Amman No. 35 Saving.

IMPORTANT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Greek Ambassador stated to a member of this Department on 26th September that he had received a telegram from the Greek Ambassador in Washington to the effect that Greek representative in New York had been approached by the Syrian Representative, who had told him that the Palestine issue was the focal point of the policy of the Syrian Government, and indeed, of the whole Arab League, and that if the Greek Government did not support the Arab case over Palestine in the General Assembly, then Syria would not be able to support the Greek case. Greek Ambassador in Washington had informed the State Department of this approach and State Department had replied that they fully understood the position and had no objection to the Greek Government supporting the Arab case.

2. Greek Ambassador was informed that His Majesty's Government would not wish to influence the decision of the Greek Government in the matter and that Greek Government should act as seemed best to them.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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1947

E

E 9065

OCT 11

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E9065/957/51

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M Evans

Dated

Berit

Received in Registry

195
29 Oct
1947

Release Reaction to Sept Speech.
Refer Beirut of 692 (E 9030/957/51)
Have look at Lebanon and Palestine
Reactions to speech by Sept at UN
Political Committee meeting.

Last Paper.

905-4

(Minutes.)

A note on Arab reactions has
been submitted to the SIS

FOR [Signature] 8/10

D.S. [Signature]
Oct. 1

Made Cabinet Dist =

[Signature]
2/1

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 W.A. [Signature] out
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out

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 10/10

(Index.)

[Signature] 20/10/47

Next Paper.

E 9075

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 9065

Mr. Evans

No. 693

D. 7.10 a.m. 30th September, 1947.

29th September, 1947.

R. 9.45 a.m. 30th September, 1947.

Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo Saving

Bagdad)	
Jedda)	
Amman)	Saving
Damascus)	
Jerusalem)	
United Kingdom Delegation New York)	

F F F F

IMPORTANT
SECRET

9030/904/1

My immediately preceding telegram - Palestine.

Moslem reaction to Colonial Secretary's speech seems to be generally favourable, but some doubt is expressed as to our sincerity. Riad Solh has in private described the development as a "good beginning" but both he and ex Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Kerameeh [sic] appear to be somewhat sceptical of our real intentions. Kerameeh also expressed concern at the possibility of an influx of Jewish immigrants after British withdrawal. One Moslem notable contended that His Majesty's Government's policy unfair to Arabs on the grounds that His Majesty's Government should either solve Palestine problem before withdrawing, or give the Arabs sufficient time to organise themselves. The latter point has also been stressed by other notables.

2. Christian reaction as a whole is less favourable. The attitude of pro-Government elements is probably [? gp. omitted] by statement of ex Minister for Foreign Affairs Philippe Takla who told me "atmosphere had been much cleared by" Colonial Secretary's speech. Reactionary elements, on the other hand, are alarmed (one described it bluntly as "bad news") and fearful that an era of bloodshed in Arab world is about to be inaugurated, particularly if withdrawal from Palestine is a prelude to evacuation of the whole Middle East. Moderate Christian opinion is probably reflected in the view expressed by well known ex Minister who informed member of my staff that process of British withdrawal should not in any case be unduly hurried.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegram No. 15.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York]



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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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E 9075

1947

PALESTINE

OCT

Registry Number

E9075/951/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

711 Baker

No.

6210

Dated

132 Saving

Received in Registry

27 Sept

1 Oct

"Palestine Day"

ARRANGED by 26 public appeal stated I have been received by Arab Higher Committee being 3rd Oct as "Palestine Day" - encouraging Arab and muslim world to display sympathy for Arab Palestine on that day by such means as strikes, demonstrations, etc.

Last Paper.

9065

(Minutes.)

~~FOR FILE~~

Com Co. (by Matthews) 30 Oct. 1

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Matthews B.O. Oct 3

(Action completed.)

9076 10/10

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

9098

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:

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En Clair by
Confidential Bag.

E. 14

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

E 9075

FROM CAIRO TO JERUSALEM

Mr. Bowker
No. 95.
September 27th, 1947.

R. 9.45.a.m. October 1st, 1947.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 152)

Bagdad No. 74
Beirut No. 75
Damascus No. 65,
Jedda No. 77,
Amman No. 90

SAVING.

-----oOo-----

Ahram of September 26th publishes appeal stated to have been received from Arab Higher Committee fixing 3rd October as "Palestine Day" and urging Arab and Moslem world to display sympathy for Arab Palestine on that day by such means as strikes, demonstrations, meetings, press articles, telegrams to United Nations Organisation rejecting U.N.S.C.O.P. decisions, and protests to foreign diplomatic missions.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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1947

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E 3098

PALESTINE

Registry Number E9098/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. 411 Evens

Dated Beirut

Received in Registry 698
30 Sept
2 Oct

Colonial Secretary speech, press reactions
Refer Beirut tel 695 (E 9065/957/31) Press comment
is still scanty, owing to public pre-occupation
with Mr. Abou-Louadi's letter. Unusual
flow of 7 a/c's that have been made
by various newspapers.

Last Paper.

9075

(Minutes.)

References.

New Dept. 6/11/10
Infn. Policy Dept. 5/11/10

Dr. J. Benis
Oct. 2

Middle Cabinet Disks

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(How disposed of.)

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Oct 6

(Action completed.)

JEM, 14/10

(Index.)

14/10/48

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Cypher/OTP CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans

No. 698

D. 7.35 a.m. 1st October 1947

30th September, 1947

R. 10.20 a.m. 1st October 1947

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York
(Foreign Office please pass as my telegram No. 16)

British Middle East Office Cairo (Saving)
Bagdad
Jedda
Amman
Damascus
Jerusalem

My telegram No. 693.

Press reaction on Colonial Secretary's speech.

Press comment is still scanty owing to public pre-occupation with M. Moubarak's letter but the following points have been made.

2. Pro-Government Arab nationalist newspaper "Al Hayat" welcomes Colonial Secretary's speech as a [gp.undec.] step towards an amicable solution of the Palestinian problem but is afraid it will be interpreted in such a way as to serve only British interests. The paper warns His Majesty's Government that Arabs are now wide awake as to their interests and will no longer be fooled. The more neutral "Az Zaman's" only comment is implied in headline "Britain withdraws her forces from Palestine and causes war between Arabs and Jews". The nationalist paper "Beirut" now in opposition makes no direct comment but quotes the Mufti of Palestine as warning the Arabs that the British move is a political feint and does not indicate radical change in British policy in Palestine. The Phalangist newspaper "Al Amal" now anti-Government states that Britain has at last defined her attitude towards Palestine but reports that both Arab and Jewish circles have received statement with surprise and suspect hidden schemes of far-reaching effect because they cannot believe Britain will so easily withdraw from such a strategic zone. Both Arabs and Jews are mobilising their forces in preparation for armed conflict because they foresee that the decision of United Nations will satisfy neither party. The paper adds that Britain, thanks to her many friends and supporters, will not find it difficult to safeguard her interests and prestige in the Middle East but America will have to defend her rights single-handed. The Communist "Saut Esh Shaab" is suspicious of British intentions and accuses His Majesty's Government of hypocrisy, contrasting the statement that they do not

/ intend

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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intend to [op. undec. ? implement] any solution by force with the fact that the mandate has been maintained by force for the past 25 years. The Communist "Tzain" insinuates in prominent headline that Mr. Creech Jones does not mean what he says.

3. Meeting of Chamber of Deputies on September 29th was entirely devoted to M. Moubarak's letter to U.N.S.C.O.P.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York]

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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F 3098

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans
No. 698

D. 7.35 a.m. 1st October 1947
R. 10.20 a.m. 1st October 1947

30th September 1947

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York
(Foreign Office please pass as my
telegram No. 16)

British Middle East Office Cairo (Saving)
Bagdad
Jedda
Amman
Damascus
Jerusalem

c c c c c c

My telegram No. 695.

Press reaction on Colonial Secretary's speech.

Press comment is still scanty owing to public
pre-occupation with M. Moubarak's letter but the
following points have been made.

2. Pro-Government Arab nationalist newspaper
"Al Hayat" welcomes Colonial Secretary's speech as a
[gp. undec.] step towards an amicable solution of
the Palestinian problem but is afraid it will be
interpreted in such a way as to serve only British
interests. The paper warns His Majesty's Government
that Arabs are now wide awake as to their interests
and will no longer be fooled. The more neutral
"Az Zaman's" only comment is implied in headline
"Britain withdraws her forces from Palestine and
causes war between Arabs and Jews". The nationalist
paper "Beirut" now in opposition makes no direct
comment but quotes the Mufti of Palestine as warning
the Arabs that the British move is a political feint and
does not indicate radical change in British policy in Palestine.
The Phalangist newspaper "Al Amal" now anti-Government
states that Britain has at last defined her attitude
towards Palestine but reports that both Arab and Jewish
circles have received statement with surprise and
suspect hidden schemes of far-reaching effect because
they cannot believe Britain will so easily withdraw
from such a strategic zone. Both Arabs and Jews are
mobilising their forces in preparation for armed
conflict because they foresee that the decision of United
Nations will satisfy neither party. The paper adds that
Britain, thanks to her many friends and supporters,
will not find it difficult to safeguard her interests
and prestige in the Middle East but America will have to
defend her rights single-handed. The Communist "Saut
Esh Shaab" is suspicious of British intentions and accuses
His Majesty's Government of hypocrisy, contrasting the
statement.....

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Reference:

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statement that they do not intend to [sp. undec.
? implement] any solution by force with the fact
that the mandate has been maintained by force for
the past 25 years. The Communist "Tzain" insinuates
in prominent headline that Mr. Creech Jones does
not mean what he says.

3. Meeting of Chamber of Deputies on September
29th was entirely devoted to M. Mubarak's letter
to U.N.S.C.O.P.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York]

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E 3099

1047

PALESTINE

2 OCT 1947

Registry Number

E9098/927/31

TELEGRAM FROM

W. Dardas

No.

Damasqus

Dated

11.2.47

Received in Registry

30 Sept
2 Oct

Colonial Secretary's speech, Damascus Press.
After 1.10.47 (E8943/957/21) Initial Press
comment was favourable, although doubts as
to H.M.G.'s intention to keep to the terms of
the statement was subsequently expressed.

Last Paper.

9098

References.

(Minutes.)
News Dept
Infn. Policy Dept.
D. J. Benit
Oct. 2

Made Cabinet Dist =

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Hathinon / C.O.
Oct 3

(Action completed.)

J. W. 14/10

(Index)

14/10/47

Next Paper.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

E 3099

2 OCT 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Dundas D. 3.58 p.m. 30th September, 1947
No. 424
30th September, 1947. R. 6.50 p.m. 30th September, 1947

1 Repeated to Bagdad
Cairo
Amman
Jedda
Beirut
C-in-C Mediterranean
Middle East Minister } SAVING

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Your telegram No. 502.

Arab translation issued by Information Officer of the Secretary of State for the Colonies statement was carried by all Damascus newspapers. The initial press comment was favourable although doubts as to His Majesty's Government's intention to keep to the terms of the statement were subsequently expressed. A leading and comparatively independent Daily commented that the speech emphasises that the British were unprepared for further sacrifices in realising "a foolish project supported by Jewish money from New York". The statement was described as "democratic" and typical of British friendship for the Arabs and [gps. undec.] new phase of British foreign policy. The point that His Majesty's Government was prepared to implement a settlement only if acceptable to both sides was welcomed. In general the press reaction is as favourable as could be expected.

2. A member of the Syrian President's staff gave his opinion that the statement contained no positive suggestion for a solution.

3. Hely war-mongers have not yet suggested that the British withdrawal would allow the Arabs an opportunity to attack the Jews.

Please pass to U.K. Delegation New York.

[Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York].

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OCT 1947

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FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Dundas. D: 3.58 p.m. 30th September, 1947.
No. 424. R: 6.50 p.m. 30th September, 1947.
30th September, 1947.

Repeated to: Bagdad,)
Cairo,)
Amman,)
Jedda,) SAVING.
Beirut,)
C-in-C Mediterranean,)
Middle East Minister)

Your telegram No. 502. E

Arab translation issued by Information Officer of the Secretary of State for the Colonies statement was carried by all Damascus newspapers. The initial press comment was favourable although doubts as to His Majesty's Government's intention to keep to the terms of the statement were subsequently expressed. A leading and comparatively independent Daily commented that the speech emphasises that the British were unprepared for further sacrifices in realising "a foolish project supported by Jewish money from New York". The statement was described as "democratic" and typical of British friendship for the Arabs and [grps.undec.] new phase of British foreign policy. The point that His Majesty's Government was prepared to implement a settlement only if acceptable to both sides was welcomed. In general the press reaction is as favourable as could be expected.

- 2. A member of the Syrian President's staff gave his opinion that the statement contained no positive suggestion for a solution.
- 3. Holy war-mongers have not yet suggested that the British withdrawal would allow the Arabs an opportunity to attack the Jews.

Please pass to United Kingdom Delegation New York.

[Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York].

@@@

SECRET

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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264
213

E

23

E 9109
2 OCT 1947

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E 9109/951/31
TELEGRAM FROM
No. M. Clarke
Dated Tordla
Received in Registry 330
1 Oct
2 -

Colanil Lanting's Speech, reactions in Tordla
Refer 70-td to Cairo 1804 (E 8943/951/31)
No official reaction yet. BAZAN opinion concludes that 4/11/47 desired to avoid conflict with Arabs. It is however apprehensive of possible British withdrawal and considers that in any emergency conflict Jews would be preferred by U.S. and is stronger than Arabs.

Last Paper.

9099

(Minutes.)

this is the first outright suggestion I have seen that the Jews would be stronger than the Arabs.
Given Cabinet Distribution

References.

(Print.)

D.S. Beins
Oct. 2

(How disposed of.)

8 Abatt...
Oct. 6

M. J. ...
3/x

SAB
3.X

(Action completed.)

F. C. ...
6/10

(Index.)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 9113

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 61880

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Cypher OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

24

FROM JEDDA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Clarke
No. 330

D. 6.00 p.m. 1st October 1947.

1st October 1947. R. 8.55 p.m. 1st October 1947.

Repeated to U.K. Del. New York

Bagdad
Cairo
Amman
Beirut
Damascus

Saving

E 3708
(2-00-22)

RESTRICTED

TTTTT

29

Your telegram No. 1804 to Cairo: reactions to Palestine statement.

There has been no official reaction yet and there is of course no press here.

2. Bazaar opinion concludes that [grp. undec.? His Majesty's] Government desires to avoid conflict with the Arabs and appreciates that desire. It is however apprehensive of possible British withdrawal from Palestine as it considers that in any conflict which ensued, the Jews would have American support and would be stronger than the Arabs.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation as my telegram No. 3.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

12 OCT 1947

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

E9109/951/31

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AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 2/10/47. 461 100

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM JEDDA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Clarke.
No. 330.

D. 6.00 p.m. 1st October 1947.

1st October 1947.

R. 8.55 p.m. 1st October 1947.

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York,)
Bagdad,)
Cairo,) SAVING.
Amman,)
Beirut,)
Damascus.)

0:0:0:0

RESTRICTED.

Your telegram No. 1804 to Cairo: reactions to Palestine statement.

There has been no official reaction yet and there is of course no press here.

2. Bazaar opinion concludes that [grp. undec.? His Majesty's] Government desires to avoid conflict with the Arabs and appreciates that desire. It is however apprehensive of possible British withdrawal from Palestine as it considers that in any conflict which ensued, the Jews would have American support and would be stronger than the Arabs.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation as my telegram No. 3.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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26

E

1947

PALESTINE

E 371

3 OCT 1947

Registry Number

E9113/951/31

FROM

Chancery

No.

Washington

Dated

15/303/47

Received in Registry

23 Sept
3 Oct.

C.I.N.S.S.O.P. Report, U.S. Views.

Refers to your letter 15/295/47 (E8730/951/31)
New York Times carries text of statement by
J.W. Martin, in which he supports majority
recommendations enclosed text, also gives
news of Senator's report.

Last Paper

9109

(Minutes.)

References

6/10

NA Sept.

Copy go.

D.S. Beir
Oct. 3

cont. 9/10

29
4/x

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 BU
1 Oct 7

(Action completed)

G.L. 10/10

(Index)

26/10/47

Next Paper

9145

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: FO 371 / 61880

27

913
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

Ref: 15/303/47

3rd September 1947

Dear Department,

Please refer to our letter 15/295/47 of the 15th September about American views on the report of the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine.

2. The New York Times of the 22nd September carries the text of a statement by Joseph W. Martin Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, in which he supports the majority recommendations of the U.N. Special Committee. A copy of the text of this statement is enclosed.

3. A similar line has been taken by Senator Taft (R., Ohio) in a statement issued on the 21st September at Reno, Nevada, in the course of a speaking tour which he is making in the West as a prelude to his candidature for Republican nomination for the Presidency next year.

4. Senator Taft called upon the Administration to "put the United States definitely on the record" as supporting in principle the majority recommendations of the Committee, in view of the policy frequently declared by Congress, as these offered a sound compromise in a dangerous controversy. The British Government had, he said, asked the advice of the United Nations Assembly and should certainly be prepared to accept the views that had been requested. Senator Taft also called attention to the recommendation of the majority report for the admittance of 150,000 Jews into Palestine. This would, he considered, remove a sore spot in the economy of Europe and reduce the seriousness of the displaced persons problem.

5. We are sending a copy of this letter to the U.K. Delegation at New York and to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CHANCERY
sa

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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MARTIN SUPPORTS PALESTINE REPORT

House Speaker for Set-Up Under U. N.—Solution 'Delayed Too Long,' He Says

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—Joseph W. Martin Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, issued a statement today supporting the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. He said that this solution for "the tragic problem" * * * had been "delayed entirely too long."

He said that the time was overdue for both Republicans and Democrats to redeem their pledges in favor of Jews in the Holy Land.

TEXT OF THE STATEMENT

The text of Mr. Martin's statement follows:

The need for solution of the tragic problem of Jewish national homelessness was never more urgent than today.

This solution has been delayed entirely too long already and each day of further delay contributes to the increasing toll of Jewish victims.

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine which has completed an investigation in Palestine and elsewhere points the way to this solution in its majority report. It partitions the country and establishes separate Jewish and Arab states. This will make possible free Jewish immigration. I hope and trust this report will have the support of the United Nations and particularly, the support of the United States Government.

Over the years there has been no aspect of our foreign affairs which has had more universal and bi-partisan support in the Congress of the United States than the proposed Jewish homeland.

In 1923, the Congress passed unanimously the Lodge resolution sponsored by the late Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the grandfather of two distinguished members of the present Congress, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., of Massachusetts, and Representative John Davis Lodge of Connecticut, which placed the stamp of Congressional approval on the Jewish National Home.

Two years ago, the Congress again went on record in favor of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth and unlimited Jewish immigration into Palestine. At the 1944 Republican and Democratic Conventions, strong declarations were written into the respective party platforms in favor of the proposed Jewish commonwealth.

The time for redemption of these pledges is long overdue.

I am confident that approval by the United Nations and by the Executive Branch of our Government, of the recommendations of the majority report to set up the proposed Jewish state will meet with the approval of Congress.

I hope that in the process of this approval, the United Nations will not whittle down the size and sovereign status of the projected Jewish state. Already, it has been reduced from an area in excess of 40,000 square miles as was originally contemplated, to less than 6,000 square miles.

Already, one Arab state has been set up and it is now contemplated to set up another in territory originally assigned to Palestine.

This isn't at all satisfactory to those who have long advocated an adequate area for a Jewish homeland, but it is an acceptable compromise.

The United Nations majority report, I repeat, points the way to an early solution of one of the world's most troublesome problems, and I hope this solution will come speedily.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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1947

E

PALESTINE

29

E 9145

3 OCT 1947

Registry Number E9145/957/31
TELEGRAM FROM
 No. III: Pelham
 Dated Bogdad
 Received 918
 in Registry 2 Oct
 3 ~

General Foreign Press. Progi Reactions. W.S.
 Refers Bogdad tel 903 (E9029/957/31) Progi reactions do not differ from those reactions reported in Secret tel 691. Press however generally assumes that HMG's support of partition and that independence will soon be granted to an Arab Palestine.

Last Paper.

9113

(Minutes.)

Made Cabinet Distribution

References.

Dr. Bevin
Oct. 3

(Print.)

*PP
V. 4*

(How disposed of.)

8, ~~Wharton - 60.~~
~~Oct. 53~~

(Action completed.)

J. L. M. 14/10

(Index)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper.

9146

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Pelham,
No. 918
2nd October, 1947.

D: 10.17 a.m. 2nd October, 1947

R: 12. 15 p.m. 2nd October, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo,
Beirut,
Damascus,
Amman,
Jedda,
Jerusalem,
British Middle East Office,
United Kingdom Delegation New York.

E 9145
3 OCT 1947

A A A A

Foreign Office please pass to Amman as my telegram No. 70 and to United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegram No. 11 and Beirut to Damascus as my telegram No. 97.

Restricted.

My telegram No. 903. E

Iraqi reactions to Colonial Secretary's statement do not differ from Lebanese reactions reported in Beirut telegram No. 691 to you.

2. Press Comment generally assumes that His Majesty's Government is opposed to partition and that independence will soon be granted to an Arab Palestine. There is no serious effort to forecast the likely course of events and it is inevitable that if events develop in a manner unwelcome to Arabs the blame will be cast on His Majesty's Government.

[Repeated to Amman and United Kingdom Delegation New York].



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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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E 9145 / 951 / 31 4 OCT 1947

E 31

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP. CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Pelham. D. 10.17 a.m. 2nd October 1947.
No. 918.
2nd October 1947. R. 12.15 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

Repeated to: Cairo,
Beirut,
Damascus,
Amman,
Jedda,
Jerusalem,
British Middle East Office,
United Kingdom Delegation, New York.

Foreign Office please pass to Amman as my telegram No.70 and to United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegram No.11 and Beirut to Damascus as my telegram No.97.

Restricted.

My telegram No.903.

Iraqi reactions to Colonial Secretary's statement do not differ from Lebanese reactions reported in Beirut telegram No.691 to you.

2. Press comment generally assumes that His Majesty's Government is opposed to partition and that independence will soon be granted to an Arab Palestine. There is no serious effort to forecast the likely course of events and it is inevitable that if events develop in a manner unwelcome to Arabs the blame will be cast on His Majesty's Government.

[Repeated to Amman and United Kingdom Delegation, New York].

W:W:W:W:W

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61880**

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E 9146

1947

PALESTINE

3 OCT 1947

Registry Number

EG 9146/957/51

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Mr. Evans

Dated

Beirut

Received in Registry

701

2 Oct

Telegraph Agency Press, Beirut Reactions.
Re: Report of (981E 9098/957/51) translated
article published in SAHAFAT EL TAHA of
Beirut. It is very favourable view of
act of speech by telegraph Agency.

Last Paper.

9145

References.

Made ^(Minutes) Cabinet Distribution
this is very favourable
Comment.

Mrs. Lewis
Oct. 3

(Print.)

But I doubt if it will be maintained!

(How disposed of.)

6, Wathayin
80.
Oct 6

R.L.
3/4

(Action completed.)

L. C. 10/10

(Index)

27/9/48

Next Paper.

9147

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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E 9146
3 OCT 1947

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans D. 4.15 p.m. 2nd October, 1947
No. 701
2nd October, 1947. R. 6.05 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

Repeated to Cairo,
U.K. Delegation New York (Foreign Office
please pass as my telegram No. 18)
B.M.E.O. (Cairo pass as my telegram No. 154)
Bagdad)
Damascus)
Jedda) SAVING
Amman)
Jerusalem)

0 0 0 0

My telegram No. 698. E 7098/91

Palestine.

Press reaction to Colonial Secretary's speech.

Following is translation of article published in
Sahafit El Tahn on October 1st.

[Begins].

Favourable comments on the British. Important
declarations of leading men in the Lebanon.

The British declaration as expressed in Mr. Creech-
Jones speech at United Nations - withdrawal from
Palestine, declaration of its independence and the
refusal to agree to any solution unacceptable to the
Arabs has made a very good impression in all Arab states,
especially in the Lebanon where we have been able to
gather the following comments emanating from various
circles and leading personalities. The well known
Seyid Hussein Bey El Qucini said "the attitude of
the British as expressed in official declaration of
Mr. Creech-Jones has made us believe fully and
sincerely in friendship of Britain. Britain has in the
past professed friendship for the Arabs, a friendship
however which we have almost doubted". Riad Bey Solh
the Lebanese Prime Minister said, "the declaration by
the British of the independence of Palestine and the
abolition of the mandate frustrates all hope of
establishment of a Zionist Jewish state, and solves the
Palestine problem justly in favour of the Arabs".

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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34

2.

wise and truthful deputy Philip Taqla former Minister for Foreign Affairs said, "the British have taken the side of right by declaring the independence of Palestine and withdrawing from it, and have thus made all the Arab states acknowledge their friendship and wisdom".

His Excellency the President of the Republic considers that the declaration of the British Government made by Mr. Creech-Jones, the Colonial Secretary makes the Arab League's mission of liberating Palestine practicable and easy. Only the cooperation of the members of the Arab League will be required to help Arab Palestine to become an independent State which will be a free fully Sovereign sister to the other Arab states.

As regards private comments it is agreed that by the declaration, the British have rendered the greatest service to the Arab cause of Palestine. This declaration has been the "coup de grace" to Jewish Zionist hopes in the Holy Land. And thus at last notwithstanding menaces and threats in certain Arab circles, all Arabs admit that the British are true in their friendship and that they take the side of truth and justice.

[Ends].

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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E 9146 / 951 / 31

4 OCT 1947

F 35

AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 3rd October, 1947

En Clair. CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Evans, D: 4.15 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

No. 701 R: 6.05 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

2nd October, 1947.
Repeated to Cairo,
U.K. Delegation New York (Foreign Office
please pass as my telegram No.18).
B.M.E.O. (Cairo pass as my telegram No.154)
Bagdad)
Damascus)
Jedda) SAVING.
Amman)
Jerusalem)

My telegram No.698.

Palestine.

Press reaction to Colonial Secretary's speech.

Following is translation of article published in
Sahafit El Taih on October 1st.

[Begins].

Favourable comments on the British. Important
declarations of leading men in the Lebanon.

The British declaration as expressed in Mr. Creech-Jones speech at United Nations - withdrawal from Palestine, declaration of its independence and the refusal to agree to any solution unacceptable to the Arabs has made a very good impression in all Arab states, especially in the Lebanon where we have been able to gather the following comments emanating from various circles and leading personalities. The well known deputy Hussein Bey El Oueini said "the attitude of the British as expressed in official declaration of Mr. Creech-Jones has made us believe fully and sincerely in friendship of Britain. Britain has in the past professed friendship for the Arabs, a friendship however which we have almost doubted." Riad Bey Solh the Lebanese Prime Minister said, "the declaration by the British of the independence of Palestine and the abolition of the mandate frustrates all hope of establishment of a Zionist Jewish state, and solves the Palestine problem justly in favour of the Arabs." The wise and truthful deputy Philip Taqla former Minister for Foreign Affairs said, "the British have taken the side of right by declaring the independence of Palestine and withdrawing from it, and have thus made all the Arab states acknowledge their friendship and wisdom."

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OCT 1947

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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[Ends]

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61880**

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1947

E

E 9147

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PALESTINE

OCT 1947

Registry Number

E9147/917/31

TELEGRAM FROM

UK tel

No.

New York

Dated

27/11

Received in Registry

2 Oct

?

Political Committee, Fourth Meeting.
R/pa New York tel 27/11 (E9013/917/31)
at joint meeting of 2. 1. 1948. Words
withdrawn in light of recent inquiry.
Summit of 1947.

Last Paper.

9146

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

by ~~whichever~~
BO.
✓ Oct 6

(Action completed.)

9/11/48

(Index)

27/11/48

Next Paper.

E9167

(Minutes.)

Para. ^{first sentence} 27 seems to me to show
that the main teeth have been
taken out of Jewish criticisms.
On the whole Rabbi Silver
might have been much more
unfriendly to us in this
statement. I doubt if the
US Zionists realise all the
rocks awaiting them.

UN (Pol.) Sept.

D.S. Beins
Oct. 3

Quite a clever statement, all things
considered.

R. G. Arman
3/x

RAB

W. X

32008 F.O.P.

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 61880

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En Clair

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 2741

D. 8.14 p.m. 2nd October, 1947.

2nd October, 1947.

R. 3.00 a.m. 3rd October, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem
Washington Saving

///

E 9147
OCT 1947

IMMEDIATE

GIANT

My telegram No. 2704.

Palestine Committee.

At the Fourth Meeting on the 2nd October Dr. Silver made a statement on behalf of the Jewish Agency. Silver criticised His Majesty's Government for reserving to themselves the right of refusing any co-operation in implementing an Assembly recommendation which conflicted with their "own criteria of justice" and their "own preferred technique of implementation". No settlement was possible without some enforcement. The reluctance of His Majesty's Government to impose a policy by force of arms was inconsistent with the present employment of force in Palestine.

2. Silver nevertheless welcomed the announcement of an early British withdrawal from Palestine which increased the need for urgent action by the Assembly. Of the two solutions proposed by members of U.N.S.C.O.P. that of the minority was unacceptable even as a basis for discussion. In the majority proposal the exclusion from the Jewish state of Western Galilee and of the modern city of Jerusalem were open to most serious objection. There were other modifications which the Jewish Agency would suggest at a later stage but subject to further discussion at the present session of the Assembly they "would be prepared to assume the responsibility for recommending acquiescence to the supreme organs of our movement". This would involve a great sacrifice "to attain that which if uninterfered with we would have attained long ago".

3. It was no longer clear who would be responsible for Palestine during the period of transition. The Jewish Agency favoured "an international authority under the United Nations". They urged that the period should be considerably less than two years and they assumed that "full use will be made of the trained manpower available in Palestine which will be prepared to offer its services to the United Nations to maintain law and order". If the

/British withdrawal

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Reference:

FO 371

61880

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British withdrawal threatened to create a vacuum "the Jewish people of Palestine will provide without delay the necessary effectives to maintain public security within their country". They would of course welcome whatever support could properly be given them by the United Nations or its members. Once the Jewish State was established it would defend its own sovereignty and respect that of its neighbours.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 76.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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E

40

E 3167

1947

ONE

ONE

Registry Number

E9167/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M Evans

Dated

Beirut

Received in Registry

402
2 Oct
3

Colonial Secretary's speech, Lebanon Reaction.

Refer Beirut tel 701 (E 9146/957/21)

It should be noted that SAHAFIT EL TAHA is perhaps the one Beirut newspaper which is at present openly and consistently pro British. The article was not however indexed.

Last Paper.

9147

(Minutes.)

[Signature]
C.T.E-CABLE
3/10

References.

Now please see E 9193

[Signature]
6/10

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Watkinson B.O.
Oct '6

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
24/10/48

(Index.)

[Signature]
24/10/48

Next Paper.

E 9179

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

Cypher/OTP

41
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 72

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans

No. 702

2nd October, 1947

D. 6.15 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

R. 8.40 p.m. 2nd October, 1947

Repeated to New York (U.K. Delegation)

Cairo

British Middle East Office Cairo (Cairo
please pass as my telegram No. 155)

Bagdad Saving

Damascus Saving

Amman Saving

Jedda Saving

Jerusalem Saving

9146/951/11

My telegram No. 701; Palestine.

It should be noted that Sahafit el Taih is perhaps
the one Beirut newspaper which is at present openly and
consistently pro-British. The article was however not
(repeat not) inspired.

addddd

[Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York] OCT



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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E

E 51791

1947

PALESTINE

4 OCT 1947

Registry Number

EPY79/957/31

FROM

F.O. Council.

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

14 Oct

Reactions to Colonial Secretary's Statement.
Palestine at 1832 of 30 Sept.
French reaction to Colonial Secretary's
Statement, of Arabs, Jews and
Communisists.

Last Paper

9167

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

The Arab reactions are substantially the same as those in other Arab States, except that scepticism appears more widespread in Palestine itself. The last paragraph contains a point which should be seen by

News Dept. 9/10

J. B. Cable
(J.F.E. CABLE)
6/10

The H.C. has been asked to make it clear to both sides that we mean business about going

The point about "toll officers" is well understood and will be made clear at occasion arise. (House of Commons) 9/10.

W.M.
17/10

J.
16/10

(Action completed)

J. B. Cable 17/10

(Index)

W.M. 17/10

Next Paper

9193

38538

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References:

FO 371

61880

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (O.A.G.)

D. 30th September, 1947.
R. 30th " " "

E 0173
13.20 hrs

IMMEDIATE
No. 1832 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated " UKDEL New York (S. of S. please
pass as my telegram No. 1291).
" " Washington, No. 230.
" " Cairo, No. 115 (please pass
copy to B.M.E.O. Cairo).
" " Baghdad, No. 73.
" " Damascus, No. 1292.
" " Beirut, No. 1293.
" " Jedda, No. 1294.
" by secret savingram to Amman, No. 634.

My telegram No. 1821.

Reactions to British statement in U.N.O.

(i) Arabs.

The Colonial Secretary's statement has, for the most part, confirmed the obstinate belief, which the publication of the recommendations of U.N.S.C.O.P. signally failed to shake, that Great Britain is determined to maintain the status quo in Palestine and would find ways and means of ensuring that whatever resolutions were taken in U.N.O. involving a British withdrawal would not be implemented. In conjunction with the basis for this assumption is the chain of reasoning that any departure from the present situation must be unacceptable to Jews or Arabs, and involves the use of force; that Great Britain is clearly not prepared to use force even in conjunction with other powers (otherwise the Colonial Secretary would not have expressly inserted the proviso "His Majesty's

/Government

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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44

Government must take into account the extent to which force would be required to give effect to a U.N.O. decision"); that the only power which might offer to implement a decision involving the use of force is Russia, and that neither the U.S.A. nor Great Britain would permit Russia to establish herself on the Mediterranean. The threat of withdrawal, should no solution be reached, is taken to be only a strategic move aimed at inducing both Jews and Arabs to adopt a conciliatory attitude to His Majesty's Government. A military withdrawal is considered to be precluded both for strategic reasons and by assumed reluctance to sacrifice British assets, which would be destroyed in a period of turmoil. Many of those prepared to consider the possibility of British withdrawal are not unduly alarmed by the thought, as there is general belief that the Arabs, assisted by neighbouring States, are in position to deal drastically with the Jews: others are genuinely concerned, feeling that even the present state of affairs is easier to face than would be the entry of Russia or the turmoil which they believe must follow British evacuation without replacement. Chief worry is the fear of internecine strife between Husseini faction and opposition. Latter are doing their best to consolidate their ranks and are preparing for reprisal if the Muffti's followers attack them.

(ii) Jews.

Mr. Creech-Jones's statement has been represented as a device to enable Britain "to reserve the right to act unilaterally regarding Palestine". It is now foreseen that Great Britain will find "unjust" or unacceptable, on the grounds that its execution would involve the use of force, any solution satisfactory to the Jews. It is assumed that the United States will not be prepared to send troops to Palestine, and hope for the execution of a U.N.O. decision, which it is assumed will be generally in favour of the Jews, is placed in Russia. Prospect of U.S.S.R. obtaining footing in Palestine is naturally not viewed with favour, but, if such is the price of independent viable Jewish State, Yishuv generally is prepared to pay it.

Jews, like the arabs, for the most part consider the British withdrawal as empty threat, particularly as no date for it is named. Agency, however, appears to believe that Hagana is sufficiently strong to enable most Jewish areas to be held inviolate and for the Jewish State to be established therein.

/(iii)

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61880**

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

45

(iii) Communists.

Both Jewish and Arab communists generally regard the statement as designed to enable Great Britain to maintain forces in Palestine as base for Anglo-U.S. war on Russia.

2. Two points are noteworthy. First, the Arab reaction might have been expected to be more favourable. Secondly, the people of Palestine have acquired from experience a very deep rooted scepticism towards any statement by His Majesty's Government affecting them, however unequivocal, and they will await some further evidence that His Majesty's Government mean what they say.

I have noticed some British press comments on "the toll of British lives" as a reason for evacuation. Perhaps the opportunity could be taken to point out to commentators that this is playing into the hands of terrorist groups who welcome this sort of encouragement to continue the toll.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for retransmission to UKDEL New York).

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	- Mr. H. Beeley
" "	- Mr. C.W. Baxter
Lord President of the Council.	
No. 10 Downing Street	- P.S. to Prime Minister
Cabinet Offices	- Sir N. Brook
" "	- Mr. S.E.V. Luke
" "	- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
Foreign Office (Research Dept.)	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss
M.I.5	- Mr. T.A. Robertson
War Office	- C.I.G.S.
" " (M.O.4)	- Lt.Col. M.M. Charteris
" "	- M.I. 3A.
Admiralty	- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds
Air Ministry	- Private Secretary
Min. of Defence	- Private Secretary
" "	- Sir H. Wilson Smith
Foreign Office (Information Dept.)	- Major General A.J.C. Pollock

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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220

E

46

1947

PALESTINE

E 9193

4 OCT 1947

Registry Number

E 9193/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

411 Evans

Dated

Revised

Received in Registry

700

2 Oct

4 Oct

Colonial Secretary's Speech, Colonial Reactions.
Colonial P.M. welcomed statement and would
only regrettable H.M.G. on their policy,
Lord Boyd gave his views that he hoped
that a solution would be found whereby
something like the Stalin quo would be
maintained. This would be satisfactory to Arabs
providing immigration were limited.

Last Paper.

9179

(Minutes.)

Please see separate minute

JW/6/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

4, Buchanan

80

Oct 7

8, Mrs. Stevens

Room 342

Church House

80

Nov. 5

(Action completed.)

J L M 11/10

(Index.)

J L M 11/10

Next Paper.

E 9206

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 9193

4 OCT 1947

Mr. Evans
No. 700

D. 6.05 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

2nd October 1947. R. 8.40 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

Repeated to U.K. Del. New York (Foreign Office please pass as my telegram No. 17)

Cairo B.M.E.O. (Cairo please pass as my telegram No. 153)

Bagdad)
Amman)
Damascus) Saving
Jerusalem)
Jedda)

SECRET

Palestine; Reaction to Colonial Secretary's speech.

Lebanese Prime Minister when I saw on October 1st said he welcomed the statement and could only congratulate His Majesty's Government on their policy. The Lebanese Government were, however, unlikely to make any official comment until the meeting of the Arab League Council on October 7th. On that occasion he might refer to the statement in his inaugural speech.

2. Riad Bey said that in his opinion if it became necessary for His Majesty's Government to withdraw the British Administration and force the situation in Palestine might develop in one of two ways. Either the Jews, when they found themselves face to face with the Arabs would become less intransigent (in which case the modus vivendi might be found) or more likely there would be serious clash as in India. He himself hoped that a solution would be found whereby something like the statu quo could be maintained. He believed (although he could not say so publicly) that this would be satisfactory from the Arab point of view provided immigration were limited (repeat limited).

3. The President of the Republic with whom I discussed the question briefly on September 30th has clearly been too pre-occupied with local politics to give the Colonial Secretary's speech his serious attention. His first reaction was however that it would be welcomed by the Arabs although they would prefer His Majesty's Government to solve the Palestine problem before withdrawing.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

TTTTTT

OCT 1947
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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221

1947

E

E 3206

6 OCT 1947

PALESTINE

48

Registry Number

E9206/957/31

FROM

D. Beaumont

No.

Damascus

Dated

76/114/47

Received in Registry

24 Sept
6 Oct

Syrian Aid to Palestinian Arabs.

Refer Damascus tel 413 (E 8875/95/31)
D.P. Ballage in conversation with P.M. was
told that the Arab Govt would adopt
towards the Palestine Arabs, the same policy
that the U.S. Govt adopted towards the
"Zionists" i.e. they would continue at the supply
of men, material arms etc.

Last Paper

9193

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

Not much fight on the Arab
side, it appears

D.P. Ballage
Oct. 6

Certainly not yet in Syria.

R.P. Ballage
7/10

BARB

9.10

(Action completed)

G.E.M. 10/10

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper

9216

32533

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61880

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E
British Legation,
Damascus.

24th Sept., 1947.

76/114/47

Dear Sir,

E 5200
3/x
With reference to my telegrams Nos. 412, 413 of September 22nd about the communication made by the Syrian Government to H.M. Government on the U.N.S.C.O.P. proposals, my U.S. colleague in conversation with the Prime Minister was told that the "Arab Governments would adopt towards the Palestine Arabs the same policy that the U.S. Government adopted towards the Zionists", i.e. that the Governments would connive at the supply of men, material and equipment (which includes arms) to the Palestine Arabs, but would not send in their own armies or official consignments of arms.

2. In point of fact, present appearances are that the Syrians will be willing to supply equipment and perhaps money but there is so little popular enthusiasm, that it looks as though the supply of men (volunteers) will be small. Most Syrians with true gallantry deplore the fact that the Palestinian Arabs are not showing a sufficient burning desire to become the first victims in the cause of freedom!!

Yours ever,

I.P. Garran, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

P.S. I did in fact make the observation about British lines & property in Palestine & elsewhere mentioned in my tel 413. (para 3). The P.M. said that so far as Syria was concerned there was no question of allowing any disorder. He could not say the same of volunteers who went to Palestine. I said that as a matter of form I reserved the right for H.M.G. to hold Syrians responsible for damage committed in Palestine too!

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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222

1947

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50

E 9216

E OCT 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9216/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

U.K. Del.

Dated

New York

Received in Registry

2747

3 Oct

6 -

Palestine, U.K. Del.

General debate on Palestine will now proceed but
Committee meeting in still unknown, but remain
opposed to any form of accommodation which
involve Jewish immigration and partition.
Israel, for Jews, proposed to settle along line
of partition with economic unity for Palestine
and to start transfer period under U.N. authority

Last Paper.

9206

(Minutes.)

References.

Pable
(SEE CABLE)

6/10

Dr. Deems
Oct. 6

(Print.)

a further tel: has now been sent from the
S.D.S. to the S.D.S for the Colonies.

RG
V 10/7

(How disposed of.)

& Waltham
60
Oct 7

(Action completed.)

G. H. M. 19/10

(Index.)

2/10/47

Next Paper.

9217

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. F. 2747

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 2747
3rd October, 1947

D. 11.17 a.m. 3rd October, 1947
R. 6.40 p.m. 3rd October, 1947

Repeated to Washington Saving

SECRET

Following for Secretary of State and Colonial Office
from Mr. Creech Jones.

[Begins].

General debate on Palestine will now proceed but American reaction is still unknown. The Arabs remain opposed to any form of accommodation which involves Jewish immigration and partition. Silver, for the Jews, is prepared for some settlement along the lines of partition with economic unity for Palestine and accepts a short transfer period under United Nations authority. He is prepared for immediate transfer to Jews of administration and power in respect of their own state for which they would provide immediate defence. There is general recognition that problem must be urgently tackled and solved. [Ends].

[Copies sent to Colonial Office].

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

223

E

52

1947

PALESTINE

F 5017
16 OCT 1947

Registry Number

E9217/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. 1001

No.

New York

Dated

27/6/47

Received in Registry

3 Oct

6 Oct

Political Committee Meetings

Refer New York tel 27/6/47 (E9217/957/31)
There were only two speakers at fifth meeting
Lisicky (Gerschelovskis) and Khamous
(Kabanov) Give lists of their speeches.

Last Paper.

9216

References.

(Minutes.)
~~by [unclear] [unclear]~~
S.A. 14/x
V.N. (Pol.) Dept.
Norman Dept. 15/10/47
6/10
[Signature]
[Signature]

I suppose Lisicky's statement
points to ^{possible} Soviet "Cooperation"
but not so obviously as
various newspaper reports
seemed to suggest

D.S. Bens
Oct. 6

R.G.
2/1/x

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Muttisara
P.O.
Oct. 7

(Action completed.)

G.C. 16/10

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

9219

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 61880

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En clair

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION.

53 E

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

E 3217

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

D. 9.35 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

No. 2761.

3rd October 1947.

R. 4.15 a.m. 4th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Washington Saving.

IMPORTANT.

GIANT.

My telegram 2741. E 9147

Palestine Committee.

There were only two speakers at the fifth meeting on the 3rd October. Lisicky (Czechoslovakia) suggested that it would be a mistake for the Committee to embark on a discussion of the U.N.S.C.O.P. report as though the Colonial Secretary's statement had not been made. A recommendation by the Assembly even if carried by a substantial majority would be of little value if it was not endorsed by those capable of enforcing it. It might be that one or more great powers other than the mandatory were ready to supply the necessary force. Or His Majesty's Government might still do so in association with others. Alternatively, an International Police Force might be formed. In any case the views of the great powers would be of primary and decisive importance.

2. The second speaker was Chamoun (Lebanon) who criticised the plan of the UNSCOP majority as being contrary to the Charter under which it was impossible to disregard the will of the majority in any country and alienate a part of its territory. If the object of the plan was to put an end to friction, it was self defeating. Turning to the detail of the plan, Chamoun pointed out that the greater part, and the more fertile part, of the country was allocated to the Jewish minority. Arab Palestine was cut in half, and reduced to a mere geographical expression.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 77.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

0:0:0

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Reference:

FO 371

61880

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224

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E 9219

54

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9219/951/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

111 Evans

Dated

Beirut

Received in Registry

710
4.30
6

Arab League Council Meeting.

Conversation with General Yassin re forthcoming meeting of Arab League Council, which met at Sana'a. Sirhan Rifai had informed Reed that both that the situation had changed and that the word had been given that the Iraqi and Syrian attitude on questions on British dominions and proposed economic boycott of Britain had been modified.

Last Paper.

9217

References.

(Minutes.)

The Iraqi Govt. were certainly very aggressive about threatening us with an economic boycott, but this was naturally in spite of, and not because of, our representations.

J. F. Cable
(S.E. CABLE)
6/10

A draft reply ~~was~~ has been submitted separately, with separate minutes.

R. P. V. J.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. Beirut 619.

Oct 7.

Airtel. Amman 438, Bagdad 850

Cairo 1864, Damascus 515,

B.M. 70. 753, Hedda 404.

Oct 7

8/ Mackeson, C.O.

Oct 10

(Action completed.)

G. E. M. 8/10

(Index)

[Handwritten signature] 27/9/48

Next Paper.

9275.

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Reference: FO 371 61880

55

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CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans.
No. 710.

D: 5.13 p.m. 4th October, 1947.

4th October, 1947.

R: 8.20 p.m. 4th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Amman,
B.M.E.O. Cairo,
Bagdad,
Cairo,
Jedda,
Damascus,) Saving.
Jerusalem,)

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Palestine.

Sheik Youssef Yasin called on me this morning in connexion with the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council. He said that Samir Pasha Rifai had informed Riad Bey Solh that "the situation had changed" and that he wondered whether this meant that the Iraqi and Transjordan attitude on the question on Bludan decisions and proposed economic boycott of Britain and America had been modified. No doubt Colonial Secretary's statement (of which he clearly approved) had had its effect but it also occurred to him that "conversations" with the British had taken place in Bagdad and Amman. It was inconceivable he said that the Iraqis could have taken such a stand on the question of a boycott without British support; if His Majesty's Government "shut their eyes for five minutes" the present Iraqi Government would be swept away. Briefly what he wished to know was what was the attitude of His Majesty's Government so that the policy of King Ibn Saud, whose wish was always to work in harmony with His Majesty's Government, could be shaped accordingly.

2. I should be glad to receive your instructions as to what reply I should give to Sheik Youssef, if possible before the opening of the meeting of the Arab League Council on October 7th.

Cairo please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No. 162.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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Registry E 9919/951/31
No.

OUT FILE

56

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

I.
P.
G.

F. O.,

7 October 1947

Despatched 10 55 / M.

Draft.

MOST
IMMEDIATE

H. M. Chargé
d' Affaires,
Beirut

Telegram.

No. 1019

(Date) Oct 7

Repeat to:—

- Amman 438
- Bagdad 350
- Cairo 1854
- Damascus 575
- Jedda 404
- Jerusalem
- B. M. E. O., Cairo 153

CFAS
5/4

~~Ex Clair.~~

~~Codex~~

~~Cypher.~~

Distribution:—

Cabinet Dist

Copies to:—

[Flag 0]

Your telegram No. 710 of 4th October:
forthcoming meeting of Arab League Council.

You may assure Sheikh Yussuf Yassin that there have been no conversations in Bagdad or Amman since the meeting in Sofar. I had, of course, been aware of the far reaching proposals of the Iraqi Prime Minister for economic sanctions against Great Britain and America in the event of developments at the United Nations Assembly unacceptable to the Arabs. I had, however, expected that the Colonial Secretary's speech before the United Nations Assembly would convince the Arab Governments of the sincerity of H.M.G. and I had not therefore contemplated making any separate representations to Arab Governments before the meeting of the Arab League. *In You* ~~short you should give the impression~~ *may indicate* to Sheikh Yussuf that I regard the Iraqi proposals as both unnecessary and undesirable, ~~but~~ *but* You should, ~~however,~~ be careful to avoid giving the impression that H.M.G. have ~~been at any way at odds~~ *entered into any controversy* with the Iraqi Government on the subject.

2. As regards the general attitude of H.M.G. on the Palestine question, you ~~may~~ *should* speak on the lines of my telegram No 338 *(to New York)*. There is ~~nothing~~ *further* that I can add to Mr. Creech Jones's statement until the discussion in the United Nations/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

57

Nations Assembly has made further progress.

[baird only] lse pass to BMEC as mytel no 153

[Handwritten signature]
Oct 6

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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OUT FILE

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(Confidential)

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT.

No. 619.

D. 4.55 p.m. 7th October, 1947.

7th October, 1947.

Repeated to Amman No. 438, Bagdad No. 850, Cairo No. 1864,
Damascus No. 515, Jedda No. 404, Jerusalem,
British Middle East Office Cairo No. 753.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

Your telegram No. 710 [of 4th October: forthcoming meeting of Arab League Council].

You may assure Sheikh Yussuf Yassin that there have been no conversations in Bagdad or Amman since the meeting in Sofar. I had, of course, been aware of the far-reaching proposals of the Iraqi Prime Minister for economic sanctions against Great Britain and America in the event of developments at the United Nations Assembly unacceptable to the Arabs. I had, however, expected that the Colonial Secretary's speech before the United Nations Assembly would convince the Arab Governments of the sincerity of His Majesty's Government and I had not therefore contemplated making any separate representations to Arab Governments before the meeting of the Arab League. You may indicate to Sheikh Yussuf that I regard the Iraqi proposals as both unnecessary and undesirable, but you should be careful to avoid giving the impression that His Majesty's Government have entered into any controversy with the Iraqi Government on the subject.

2. As regards the general attitude of His Majesty's Government on the Palestine question, you should speak on the lines of my telegram No. 3318 to New York. There is nothing further that I can add to Mr. Creech Jones's statement until the discussion in the United Nations Assembly has made further progress.

[Cairo only] Please pass to British Middle East Office as my telegram No. 753.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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225

39

1947

E

E 9275

7 OCT 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E9275/957/31.
 FROM Legation
 No. Damascus
 Dated 116.
 Received in Registry 25 Sept
 7 Oct.

Communication by Syrian P.M. as Palestine.
 Refer Damascus tel 1412 (E9275/957/31)
 transmits translation of note presented by
 Syrian Prime Minister, as Palestine on 1/17
 of 22 Sept.

Last Paper

9219

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, *Washington* - 60
 Oct 10
 of U.K. Del
 New York
 Oct 10

(Action completed)

G.L.M. 10/10

(Index)

27/8/48

Next Paper

9278

(Minutes)
 Copy to: C.O. (Mr. Mathison)
 U.K. Del. to U.N. New York

Palmer
 C.S. 6-00012
 7/10

I don't like the tone of this.
 But it was sent before the
 Colonial Sec's statement of
 Sept 26 and is therefore
 out of date.

The Beirut
 Oct. 7

RP
 8/10

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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116 (76/119/47)

60 E

HIS Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Damascus presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Sec. of State and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned for F.A documents.

British... Legation,.....

..... Damascus,.....

Syria.

...25 Sept., 1947... E 8793/957/11

Reference to previous correspondence:

Damascus telegram No. 410 of 22nd Sept., 1947, to F.O.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Translation of Syrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs' note No. P/7 of 22nd September, 1947.	COMMUNICATION PRESENTED BY SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER RE PALESTINE.

E 927/5
7 OCT 1947

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

61

SYRIAN MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DAMASCUS,
22 September, 1947.

No. P/7

The Syrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs present their compliments to His Majesty's Legation and, in accordance with the decision taken unanimously by the Political Committee of the Arab League Council on the 19th September, 1947, have the honour to draw their attention to the following points requesting them to kindly communicate this memorandum to His Excellency the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom as soon as possible:-

1. When the Mandate of His Majesty's Government over Palestine was decided - although this Mandate was false from its foundation because the people of Palestine opposed it - the intention was, in accordance with Article 32 of the League of Nations' Charter, to prepare the population of that country, as an independent nation, to achieve their political maturity in the shortest possible time, so that as soon as the fundamental elements of independence had been realised, the Mandate might be abrogated and the Independence of the country proclaimed.

On the 18th of April, 1946, the League of Nations was dissolved and the Mandate (assuming that the Mandate had been valid) emanating therefrom lapsed. But His Majesty's Government desired that their supervision over this country should continue with a view to realising the prosperity of its population. This desire on the part of His Majesty's Government was gratuitous and was opposed by the Arabs of Palestine and had been deprecated in every way ever since the Mandate was originally decided upon.

In February 1947 His Majesty's Foreign Secretary announced in the British House of Commons that the people of Palestine had acquired such political and cultural maturity as would render them fit to exercise the independence of their country, just like all the peoples of the other Arab countries detached from the Ottoman Empire under the Lausanne Treaty, which now enjoy their independence.

In spite of the foregoing and notwithstanding the repeated promises made by His Majesty's Government to the Arabs, His Majesty's Government did not pursue the natural path and proclaim the independence of Palestine.

2. Whereas the Fact Finding Committee emanating from the United Nations Organisation has submitted proposals which collectively and severally demolish the independence of Palestine as an Arab State, consequently the Arabs of Palestine, as well as all the peoples of the Arab countries, deprecate these proposals and refuse them utterly. They declare to His Majesty's Government from now that there is no legislative authority which has the right to cut off a portion from Arab Palestine and donate it to the Zionists with a view to establishing therein a Jewish State. They likewise declare that there is no legislative authority which possesses the right to allow Palestine to be invaded by a host of Jews who have no connection with it and no right to enter it.

3. The invasion of Palestine by the Zionists was accompanied by acts of violence and terrorism all of which aimed at firmly establishing for the Zionists a foothold in the country so that they might later be able to realise their ambitions in the neighbouring Arab countries.

4. The Governments/

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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4. The Governments of the Arab States previously warned the afore-mentioned Committee of Enquiry of the serious consequences of any recommendations in favour of the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, and openly pointed out to them the inevitable outbreak of disturbances throughout the whole Middle East. This is because the Arabs of Palestine would never accept any arrangement which would do away with the unity and independence of their country, but would wage a war in which no quarter would be shown to repel aggression against their country, and more particularly so, because they know that all the Arab countries would stand behind them, support them and supply them with money, men and equipment to defend their existence.

The Arab Governments would never be capable of repressing the sentiments of their peoples rising in consequence of the tyranny that has befallen them. Nor could they stand by with their arms folded in the face of a danger which threatens all the Arab countries, but would find themselves compelled to resort to some decisive action for repelling aggression and re-establishing right.

Such an attitude on the part of the Arab countries or Governments would not be surprising since it has been established on several occasions that the Zionists depend for their armaments and for their terrorist and military activities, which are aimed at destroying the Arabs of Palestine, on material and moral assistance supplied to them by certain foreign Governments and by certain parties and organisations which are encouraged by those Governments. Besides, the question of disarming the Jews and countering their terrorist activities has been the subject of repeated demands and protests presented by the Arab Governments to the afore-mentioned Governments, but all these efforts failed to produce any definite results.

5. Consequently the Syrian Government, who are still linked to His Majesty's Government by the closest bonds, consider it their duty to make His Majesty's Government realise the real danger menacing the security and peace in the Middle East and to hold them responsible for any incidents which may ensue, should any decision be taken which shall tend to prejudice the right of Palestine to be an independent Arab State.

The Syrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to His Majesty's Legation the assurance of their highest consideration.

His Majesty's Legation,
Damascus.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group..... FO
Class 371
Piece 61880

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E9278/951/31

and closed until..... 1998

*delete as necessary

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61880**

227

63

E

E 9279

7 OCT 1947

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E 9279/951/31.
 FROM R.H. Madow
 No. Embassy
 Dated Washington
 Received in Registry 20. Sept 4 Oct.

Speech by Garcia Granados on Palestine.
 Transmitt press copy of speech by Garcia Granados on Palestine. He told his Latin American colleagues that his main object in making the speech was to "attack Great Britain wherever possible as a reminder of the British Mandate error."

Last Paper

9278

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8. Abatherson
 80.
 ✓ Oct 8

(Action completed)

✓ 13/10

(Index)

✓ 24/10/47

Next Paper

9285

(Minutes.)

copy to Mr. Matheson
 He has always been pro-Jewish
 and anti-British.
 G. G. 10
 N.A. Dept.

[Signature]
 7/10

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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E enthr
64

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
30 September, 1947.
7 OCT 1947

Dear Wilson-Young,

The matter in question - Palestine - does not properly concern your Department.

You may none-the-less feel that the attached effort by Garcia Granados is worth noting because:-

- a) He told his Latin American colleagues that his main object in making the speech was to "attack Great Britain wherever possible as a reminder of the British Honduras issue."
- b) The speech itself was given to the press by Jewish interests well before it was made.

2. Actually the Latinos who spoke to me about this effusion professed to be shocked at the biased attitude which Garcia Granados had made public before the United Nations had even debated it. The speech may therefore have been somewhat of a boomerang.

Yours ever,


R.H.Hadow.

I. Wilson-Young, Esq.,
North American Department,
Foreign Office,
London.

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61880**

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

SPEAKS OF PALESTINE



Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados
The New York Times

65
RULE IN PALESTINE
CALLED AUTOCRATIC

Guatemalan on U. N. Group
Says Jews Have Stronger
Case Than the Arabs

Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados, Guatemalan member who signed the majority report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, yesterday denounced British rule in the Holy Land and stressed the humanitarian and legal rights of the Jewish people for statehood in that country.

The Guatemalan diplomat, who heads his country's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, spoke before 2,000 persons representing Jewish community, fraternal and benevolent organizations in New York, at an emergency conference called by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York at the Hotel Astor.

Announcement was made that \$2,000,000 had been raised toward the \$5,000,000 goal for the aid of Jewish children overseas. This campaign is part of the campaign for \$65,000,000 by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York for overseas relief.

Dr. Garcia Granados maintained that the "case of the Jews was stronger than that of the Arabs," adding that "nothing I had read, however, prepared me for what I saw."

"My first impression," he continued, "was that Palestine was a huge concentration camp. I have fought for more than twenty-five years against dictatorship in my own country and elsewhere and I was shocked to find all the symptoms of military autocracy; tanks and barbed wire barriers blocking the streets, a rigid curfew, a people governed arbitrarily by emergency regulations, and imprisoned at the will of army officers."

Praising the economic, scientific and cultural achievements of the Jewish people in Palestine "with no help from the Government," Dr. Garcia Granados asserted that "yet this people is being treated as if it were unfit to govern itself."

He declared that the legal case of the Jewish people in Palestine "is to me no less important than the case they have established by their achievements there." He then asserted that British policies in Palestine "did not correspond with the mandate she received from the League of Nations."

"The Palestinian administration," he continued, "did not hesitate to persecute and jail thousands of people in pursuance of its peculiar interpretation of the mandate, but now that the Special Committee's report recommends that Britain should enforce the majority plan during the transition period, Britain refuses. This contradiction I cannot understand. Britain used her military strength to oppress; why cannot she use it to liberate?"

Stressing that anti-Semitism in Central and Eastern Europe "did not die with Hitler," Dr. Garcia Granados said: "The Arabs say that Palestine is important to their national aspirations—to the Jew it is not important; it is vital."

Other speakers included Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, who recently returned from a European tour on behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee; Ruth Gruber, journalist, and Norman V. Gilmovsky, director of the Council of Organizations of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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66

1947

PALESTINE

E 9285

7 OCT 1947

Registry Number

E 9285/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

UK Del

No.

New York

Dated

Received in Registry

2797
6 Oct
7-

Palastine Committee, fifth meeting.
After the first of 2701 (E 9285/957/31) fifth meeting, general debate was continued by Sir Arnold Forster (with two speakers Sir Pasha and Sir Sami) and Mr. Gungor. Report (Parsons) indicated support for majority plan, final texts of speeches made.

Last Paper.

9279

(Minutes.)

References.

[Signature]
(T.E. CABLE)
7/10

35-3615
Oct. 7

UN (E) Dept.
[Signature]

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, *[Signature]*
80.
Oct. 13

[Signature]
V 8/x

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
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(Index.)

[Signature]
24/8/48

Next Paper.

E 9292

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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En Clair

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 2791

D. 9.44 p.m. 6th October 1947

6th October 1947.

R. 5.30 a.m. 7th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem

Washington Saving.

IMMEDIATE.

GIANT.

My telegram No. 2761.

Palestine Committee.

At the sixth meeting on the 6th October the general debate was continued by Panama, Iraq (with two speakers Nuri Pasha and Dr. Jamali) and Uruguay. Reyes (Panama) indicated support for the majority plan.

2. Nuri Pasha distinguished between two tasks confronting the Assembly - to find a solution in Palestine and to settle the European Displaced Persons. The latter should be transferred to I.R.O. by whom Jews and non-Jews should be given equal treatment. Palestine could then be considered without reference to the refugee problem. There were two possible courses of action. Either the Mandatory Power should be asked to declare Palestine an independent State or the United Nations should determine its future in strict accordance with the terms of the charter and without reference to any past promises. Meanwhile the Mandatory [? Power omitted] should form a provisional Government of Palestinian leaders and should begin to remove the criminal elements from the country.

3. Dr. Jamali demanded the application to Palestine of the general principles for the preservation of which two world wars had been waged. Among these principles he listed freedom from foreign interference and juxtaposed the protests of the United States Delegation against foreign intervention in Greece with the assistance given by United States citizens to illegal Zionist activity in Palestine.

4. Fabregat (Uruguay) proposed that the UNSCOP majority proposal should be adopted by the Committee as the basis for discussion. He also gave notice of a motion for the immediate admission into Palestine of the 30,000 Jewish children among the displaced persons together with their parents or guardians and with all pregnant Jewish women. Discussing the majority proposal in detail he accepted the criticism that Jaffa and Beersheba should not be in the Jewish State and suggested exchanging them for Western Galilee. Jerusalem should not be made the nucleus of a third state but should be partitioned, its Jewish and Arab quarters being allocated to their respective States.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 78.

[Repeated to Jerusalem].

V V V

OCT 7 1947
NEW YORK

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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E 9292
68

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E9292/951/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Arab High
Committee
Dated L.M. Bevin

Received in Registry

Arab News on UNSCOP Report.
Palestine Arabs have declared general strike protesting against UNSCOP Report and any resolution entailing Partition. They demand termination of the Mandate, withdrawal of British Authorities and declaration of Palestine as an Independent State (Arab).

Last Paper.

9285

References.

10/10.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

✓ Whatheron RO.
16 Oct.
✓ U.K. Del to U.N.
New York
no. 432
(Open) ✓ Oct. 16

(Action completed.)

L.C. 11/10

(Index.)

24/8/48

Next Paper.

E9302

(Minutes.)

Copy to C.O. (Mr. Mathison)
U.K. Del. to U.N. New York

[Signature]
(L.F. CABLE)

7/10

28 Bevin
Oct. 1

[Signature]
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Reference

FO 371 / 61880

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CD3 HXA233 JERUSALEM 56/51 3 2140 HCW/YY

FOREIGN SECRETARY LONDON

PALESTINE ARABS DECLARED GENERAL STRIKE

PROTESTING UNSCOP REPORT AND ANY SOLUTION

ENTAILING PARTITIONING PALESTINE OR

DISMEMBERMENT ANY PART THEREOF DEMAND TERMINATION MANDATE WITHDRAWAL BRITISH

AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION PALESTINE AN

INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE ANY OTHER SOLUTION

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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WILL THREATEN PEACE THROUGHOUT PALESTINE

AND MIDDLE EAST E

ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE

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E 9302

1947

PALESTINE

72

Registry Number E9302/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M. Bekham
Bagdad.

Dated

Received in Registry } 923
4. Oct.
Y -

Arab Protest Strike

Refer Bagdad tel 903 (E9029/957/31) Progi
fact supported strike on Oct 3 between 6.0 am
and noon. The Municipality of Bagdad enforced
stringent security precautions and no disorders
occurred in Bagdad.

Last Paper.

9292

(Minutes.)

*Mr. Baker
for*

[Signature] 8/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8, Matheson
FO
✓ Oct. 10*

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
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(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 9304

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

73
E 9302

Mr. Pelham
No. 923

D. 7.45 a.m. 7th October, 1947.

4th October, 1947.

R. 9.35 a.m. 7th October, 1947.

Repeated to : Cairo
Beirut
Damascus
Jedda
Jerusalem

British Middle East Office,
Cairo
United Kingdom Delegation,
New York
Washington - Saving

RESTRICTED

My telegram No. 903. *e 903/10/47*

Iraqi Government supported strike on October 3rd between
6.0 a.m. and noon. The Mutessarif of Bagdad enforced
stringent security precautions and no disorders occurred in
Bagdad.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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74
E 9304

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9304/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

11 Roberts

Dated

Moscow

Received in Registry

2217

7 Oct

8

Colonial Secretary's Statement, Soviet Press.
Repts Moscow etc (E 8979/957/31) Soviet comment on statement of an early withdrawal from Palestine appears in violently worded Kaslanski article in Pravda of Oct. 6. under the headline "Bankrupts".
Pages 10 of same

Last Paper.

9302.

(Minutes.)

Moscow is still in the fence

References.

Hube
(5-6-48)

8/10

Northern Dept.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

to Wharton
b.v.
Oct 8,

As long as she is on it
she can't do us much harm. This
sort of scurrilous stuff is taken
for granted

H.S. B...
Oct. 8

Seen by Mr Carran *J.B.*

(Action completed.)

L.C. 16/11

(Index.)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper.

9323

3208 F.O.P.

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FO 371 / 61880

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75

FROM MOSCOW TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Roberts.

No. 2217.

7th October, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem U/N,

United Kingdom Delegation New York No. 78,

Washington No. 427.

D. 4.23 p.m. 7th October 1947.

R. 5.59 p.m. 7th October 1947.

IMPORTANT.
LIGHT.

E 9304

My telegram No. 2160.

Palestine.

First Soviet comment on Colonial Secretary's announcement of an early withdrawal from Palestine appears in violently worded two-column Zaslavski article in Pravda of October 6th under the headline "Bankrupts".

2. After some heavy sarcasm about ordinary bankruptcy procedure, Zaslavski characterises the announcement as an admission of political bankruptcy by the British Empire, "which only recently was an extremely powerful state" and as a proposal that the United Nations should "disentangle the mess of political intrigue and human blood, which is the result of many years of British administration".

3. Zaslavski contrasts the alleged inability of the British bourgeoisie to solve the nationality question in Palestine with the thirty years of peaceful co-operation among the brotherly Soviet peoples in the worker's state. After blaming Britain for fomenting the Arab-Jewish conflict, he claims that only the working class can solve the nationality problem when it has been given a chance to "come together freely and agree on forms of co-habitation". At present some Jews and some Arabs hate each other but all Jews and Arabs hate Britain.

4. Painting a lurid picture of British oppressions, Zaslavski then declares that pre-war Britain "would not have halted at expense and would have turned streams of blood into rivers, but such an intense colonial terror is too much for the pocket of present-day Britain".

5. Zaslavski hints that British troops may not after all be withdrawn, since no date is known, and finally suggests that for reasons of economy "certain British politicians are prepared to exchange role of independent master in Palestine for the capacity of gendarme and hiring hangman", paid by United States dollars. He concludes that the British bankruptcy in Palestine is simply the most striking example of the general national-colonial bankruptcy of imperialism" throughout the world.

6. Text of article follows by bag.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington as my telegrams U/N and 427 respectively.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington]

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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E 9323
76

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9323/957/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Prague.

Dated

253.

Received in Registry

1 Oct

4

Views on UNSCOP Report. Czechoslovak Jews.

Copy of letter to Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia, Kolinia no 346/8/47 of Oct. 1. who on behalf of Jews of Czechoslovakia, appeal solution of Palestine question advocated by UNSCOP.

Last Paper

9304

(Minutes.)

8/10

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

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(Index)

27/9/48

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9329

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Reference: FO 371 / 61880

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E 77

Chargé
HIS Majesty's d'Affaires at Prague
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British... Embassy,.....
..... Prague.

E 9323

1st..October.., 194..7.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>To:</p> <p>Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia.</p> <p>Ref.No.346/8/47.</p> <p>Dated: 1st October 1947.</p>	<p>Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine.</p>

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 Reference:
FO 371 / **61880**

78

BRITISH EMBASSY,

PRAGUE.

1st October, 1947.

346/8/47

Gentlemen,

I am directed by His Majesty's Ambassador to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd September on the subject of the Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. In accordance with your request, Sir Philip Nichols is informing His Majesty's Government of the fact that the Jews of Czechoslovakia, as represented by yourselves, approve the solution of the Palestine question advocated by the Committee.

As regards the policy of His Majesty's Government, I am to enclose herein the text of the statement made by the Colonial Secretary before the Assembly.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

(Sgd) A. Rumbold.

Council of Jewish Communi-
ties in Bohemia and
Moravia-Silesia,
Prague V.
Malslova 18.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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E 9329
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1947

PALESTINE,

Registry Number

E9329/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. Ref

No.

New York.

Dated

Received in Registry

2810

7 Oct

8 -

Political Committee Meetings. Seventh.
Refer New York (1 2791 (E9285/957/31)
ZAFARUZZA KHAN (Pakistan) spoke throughout
seventh meeting on Oct. 7. Given text of
his speech.

Last Paper.

9323

(Minutes.)

John

(C.F. CABLE)

8/10

References.

Commonwealth Liaison Dept.
MAY 13/10

D.S. Beins
out. P

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Washington
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V. det. 8

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V 8/x

(Action completed.)

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Next Paper.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

EN CLAIR.

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION.

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FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 2810. D. 8.54 p.m. 7th October 1947.

7th October 1947. R. 3.30 a.m. 8th October 1947.

Repeated to: Jerusalem
and saving to
Washington.

E 9329

IMMEDIATE.

GIANT.

My telegram No. 2791.

Palestine Committee.

Zafarulla Khan (Pakistan) spoke throughout the seventh meeting on the 7th October. After a masterly presentation of the historical basis for the Arab case he argued that even if no pledges had been given to the Arabs a settlement in their favour would nevertheless be demanded by the principles of the Charter. He also quoted the Atlantic Charter and the ten principles of American foreign policy proclaimed in President Truman's speech of the 27th October 1945 and concluded that Palestine confronted the members of the United Nations with an acid test of the sincerity of their professions.

2. He saw nothing in the Zionist case which should cause the United Nations to depart from their general principles. The desire of displaced persons to go to Palestine could not be regarded as a decisive factor. Nor did the refusal of the Jewish Agency to accept the position of a minority in Palestine entitle the United Nations to reduce the Arabs to that position in a part of the country. India offered no analogy because the conflict of communities there had not been artificially created and because the partition of India had been brought about by agreement between Moslem and Hindu.

3. If the UNSCOP majority plan were put into effect the Arab population would gradually and by economic discrimination be driven out of the Jewish State. Furthermore the Jews would not regard it as a final settlement. It could not be accepted as a solution for the problem.

4. The duty of the United Nations was solely to apply the Charter. To this end they should first explore whatever possibility there might be of a direct agreement between Arabs and Jews. Failing that they should seek a solution "in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned".

OCT
11
1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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81

The remedy for the existing Jewish minority would then be for the United Nations to prescribe guarantees of their rights and means for their judicial enforcement.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No.79.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for retransmission to Jerusalem.]

W:W:W:W:W

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233

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82

1947

PALESTINE

E 9337

Registry Number

E 9337/957/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Mr Roberts

Dated

Morocco

Received in Registry

2218

700t

8 -

Political, Soviet Press.
Refr Morocco tel 2217 (E 9337/957/31) This is an outstanding example of disingenuous Soviet propaganda. The letter to follow only too definitely bears a similarity to early British reactions to the importance of security. Soviet-Czech agreement, which 11/11/47, have occurred, relay handed to the press, it is now bitterly denounced than ever before.

Last Paper.

9329

(Minutes.)

References.

Mr Roberts
Northern Dept
News Dept
Information Admin Dept.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Wathen
8/11
Oct 8

Does
This is just the same official reaction as to the Indian settlement
CRA 14x
Oct. 24

(Action completed.)

24/10

(Index.)

29/1/48

Next Paper.

E 9343

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

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83

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

E 9537
E

Cypher OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM MOSCOW TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Roberts

No. 2218

D. 4.15 p.m. 7th October 1947.

7th October 1947.

R. 5.00 p.m. 7th October 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem

U.K. Del. New York

Washington

IMPORTANT
RESTRICTED
LIGHT

(Foreign Office please pass as my telegrams unnumbered, 79 and 428 respectively).

My telegram No. 2217. E

Palestine.

This is an outstanding example of disingenuous Soviet propaganda. The only two definite lines which it has hitherto consistently followed on Palestine have been

(1) the necessity for early British evacuation and

(2) the importance and practicability of securing Jewish-Arab agreement. However now that we have announced a policy based on both principles we are more bitterly denounced than ever before.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for retransmission to Jerusalem].

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington].

TTTTTT

OCT 1947
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XI
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E 9343

1947

PALESTINE

84

Registry Number

E9343/951/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

B.M.E.O.

Dated

6 ams

Received in Registry

5-46
7 Oct
8

*Palentine Arab League Council.
Issam Pasha, said he did not expect the
League Council to do more at Beirut in the
Palentine Question than consider the report
of the Political Committee, and ways of
implementing possible measures.*

Last Paper.

9337

(Minutes.)

*235 Beirut
Oct. 8*

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8, Matheron
BV
Oct 10*

(Action completed.)

7 Oct 10/10

(Index)

27/10/48

Next Paper.

E9354

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61880

E 9343

F 85

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO
TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 546
7th October, 1947.

D: 7.44 p.m. 7th October, 1947
R: 10.45 p.m. 7th October, 1947

Repeated to: Beirut
New York (United Kingdom Delegation)
Washington.

IMPORTANT

Azzam Pasha told me that he did not expect the League Council to do more at Beirut in the Palestine question than consider the report of the Political Committee [1 gp. undec.] so far, and ways of implementing possible measures.

He thought it might be then adjourned till later in the month when the situation in United Nations would be clearer. I doubt however if he is yet fully in touch with views of other members and do not attach too much importance to his forecast.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 348 and 32 respectively.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington].

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231

E

E 9354

86

OCT 1947

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E9354/951/31

FROM

C. M. Price-Gordon

No.

Amman

Dated

100

Received in Registry

27 Sept
9 Oct.

Resolution by Arab League

Transmit note from Minter Foreign Affairs for transmission to H.M.G. giving text of resolution passed at meeting of Political Committee of Arab League. re UNSCOP report on Palestine.

Last Paper

9343

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, Mathieson Co.

9/ U.K. Del
New York

no. 429 Oct 10

(Minutes.)

This is stiffer than the Lebanese and Syrian but, it seems to me, a shade more polite than the Iraqi (12356).

Copies to: C.O. (Mr. Mathieson)
U.K. Del. to U.N. New York

J. E. Cable
(J. E. CABLE)

7/6
JBort. 9

(Action completed)

J. E. Cable
10/10

(Index)

J. E. Cable
10/10

Next Paper

9356

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2. Now that the Fact Finding Committee appointed by the United Nations Organisation has made such recommendations as will-either in whole or in part- destroy the independence of Palestine as an Arab state, the Palestine Arabs as well as the whole Arab people disapprove of and reject these proposals "in toto" root and branch, and would like Great Britain to realize that there exists no legal authority which has the right to cut off a part of Arab Palestine in order to grant it to the Zionists for the establishment of a Jewish state. The Palestinian Arabs as well as their brethren in the Arab countries declare that there is no legal authority which has the right to allow the invasion of Palestine by a section of the Jews who have no connection whatsoever with the country and who have no right to enter it.

3. The invasion of Palestine by the Zionist race has been accompanied by acts of violence and terrorism so as to secure for Zionism a foothold in the country and to enable it to realize its various aspirations in the adjacent Arab countries.

4. It was for all these reasons that the Arab Governments have warned the United Nations Fact Finding Committee of the consequences which will result from recommending the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine and for making it clear that such a recommendation would cause the whole of the Middle East to flare up in disastrous and wide spread disturbances. The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the Arabs of Palestine would never accept any arrangement whereby the country's independence and unity might be endangered. It was clearly stated that the Arabs of Palestine would not hesitate to take up arms in defence of their country especially since they knew that the whole Arab World would support them and supply them with men, money and armaments to defend their case. The Committee were informed that the Arab Governments themselves would not be in a position to calm the excited feelings of their people who would not submit to the injustice so accorded them. Neither was it concealed that the Arab Governments would not remain inactive while danger was menacing the Arab homeland, but would be forced to take action to rectify this wrong.

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Such a recourse on the part of the Arab peoples or Governments would not be considered illegal in the case of Palestine since it has been established, on several occasions, that the Zionists have relied on moral and material assistance accorded them by certain foreign Governments, bodies and organisations, and have received encouragement from these sources to commit acts of terrorism from which the Arabs of Palestine have suffered greatly. Again, such a recourse would be justified by the lack of success with which the many and frequent protests have been met when submitted by the Arab Governments to these Governments requesting them to prevent acts of terrorism by the Jews and to confiscate their arms.

5. In view of the foregoing, my Government, which maintains the most amicable and close relations with the British Government, feels that it is its duty to draw the attention of the British Government to the dangers threatening public security in the Middle East countries and to hold that Government responsible for any consequences which may result from any decisions being passed whereby the right of Palestine to be an independent Arab state may be infringed or violated.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Sgd) Samir Rifai,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency,
Mr. C.M. Pirie-Gordon,
His Britannic Majesty's Charge d'Affaires,
AMMAN.

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المملكة الاردنية الهاشمية
وزارة الخارجية

الرقم ٣٠١٨/١٣/٢٣

التاريخ ١٩٤٧/٩/٢٢

حضرة صاحب السعادة

بناءً على قرار صدر بالاجماع من اللجنة السياسية لمجلس جامعة الدول العربية في ١٩ سبتمبر سنة ١٩٤٧ اشرف بأن الفت النظر الى النقاط الآتية مع رجاء التفضل بإبلاغ هذه المذكرة في اقرب وقت الى سعادة وزير الخارجية البريطانية - ١ - ان انتداب الحكومة البريطانية حينما تقرر على فلسطين وان كان قد وقع باطلا من اساسه لمعارضة اهل البلاد فيه انما قصد منه وفقا للمادة (٢٢) من ميثاق عصبة الامم تأهيل اهل هذا البلد الاصليين باعتبارهم امة مستقلة الى استكمال نضجهم السياسي في اقصر وقت مستطاع حتى اذا ما تمت لهم مقومات الاستقلال انهي الانتداب واعلن استقلال البلاد .

وفي ١٨ من ابريل سنة ١٩٤٦ حلت عصبة الامم وسقط الانتداب الصادر منها على فرض وقوعه صحيحا ، الا ان الحكومة البريطانية رغبت في ان يستمر اشرافها على هذه البلاد لتحقيق رفاهية اهلها الاصليين ، وهي رغبة تبرعت بها من جانبها واقاومها عرب فلسطين واستنكروها بكل وسائل الاستنكار على نحو ما دأبوا عليه منذ تقرير الانتداب . وفي فبراير سنة ١٩٤٧ اعلن وزير خارجية الحكومة البريطانية في البرلمان البريطاني ان اهل فلسطين قد استكملوا من النضج الثقافي والسياسي ما يؤهلهم لممارسة استقلال بلادهم شأنهم في ذلك شأن اهل البلاد العربية التي انسلخت عن الدولة العثمانية بمقتضى معاهدة لوزان والذين يتمتعون فعلا بالاستقلال . وعلى الرغم من ذلك وعلى الرغم من الوعود المتكررة التي قطعتها الحكومة البريطانية للعرب فانها لم تسلك الطريق الطبيعي فتعلن استقلال فلسطين . ٢ - ولما كانت لجنة التحقيق المنبثقة من منظمة الامم المتحدة قد قدمت مقترحات هسي في مجموعها وفي مفرداتها تهدم استقلال فلسطين كدولة عربية فان عرب فلسطين واهل البلاد العربية جميعا يستنكرون هذه المقترحات ويرفضونها من اساسها ويعلنون حكومة بريطانيا العظمى من انه ليست هناك سلطة شرعية تملك ان تقطع جزءا من فلسطين العربية وتمنحه للصهيونية لتقيم فيه دولة يهودية ، كما يعلنون انه ليست هناك سلطة شرعية تملك ان تجزئ غزو فلسطينيين لقوم من اليهود لا صلة لهم بها ولا حرق لهم فسي دخولها . ٣ - وقد اقترن غزو فلسطين بالعنصر الصهيوني باعمال من العنف والارهاب تهدف جميعا الى تمكين اقدامه في البلاد حتى يستطيع بعد ذلك ان يحقق مظامعه في البلاد العربية المجاورة .

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No. 356
512/11/47

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~~HIS Majesty~~ Charge d'Affaires at Bagdad
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A.

and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British.....Embassy,
.....Bagdad.....

E 9356
29 SEP 1947

.....29th September, 1947.....

Reference to previous correspondence:

E 8866/350/5

Bagdad telegram to Foreign Office No.876 of the 24th September, 1947.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Note No.2903/237/13 from the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated the 22nd September, 1947 addressed to Bagdad.	Meeting of Arab League on Palestine.



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Translation
No.2903/237/13.

1 copy please
(2/10/47) 29356 95
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Arab Affairs Department,
Bagdad, 22nd. September, 1947

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs present their compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Embassy, Bagdad, and, in having the honour to inform the Embassy of the issue of a unanimous decision on the 19th September, 1947, by the Political Committee of the Council of the League of Arab States, desire to draw the esteemed Embassy's attention to the points contained in this decision and to request the Embassy to communicate them, as early as possible, to His Britannic Majesty's Government.

1. When it was decided to place Palestine under the mandate of the British Government, in spite of the opposition to it by the inhabitants of the country, which opposition removed the basis of the mandate, the intention under Clause 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, was to lead the original inhabitants, already considered as an independent people, to political maturity in the shortest possible time. So that when they should have obtained the prerequisites for independence, the mandate would be terminated and the independence of the country announced.

On the 18th of April 1947, the League of Nations was dissolved and the mandate made by it, supposing it to have any legal basis, terminated. The British Government, however, wished to continue to supervise the country in order to ensure the well-being of its original inhabitants. The Arabs of Palestine have opposed this unilateral desire by Great Britain as they have opposed the mandate since its inception.

In February 1947, the British Foreign Secretary announced in the British Parliament that the people of Palestine had attained such cultural and political maturity as to entitle them to the independence of their country, in the same way as the peoples of the/

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of the other Arab countries formed from the Ottoman Empire under the Treaty of Lausanne now in fact are independent. In spite of this and of the repeated promises given by the British Government to the Arabs, the British Government did not follow this natural course and announce the independence of Palestine.

2. The Arabs of Palestine, and of all the Arab States, completely reject and are unalterably opposed to the proposals of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine which, separately and as a whole, would lead to the destruction of Palestine as an independent Arab State. They hereby inform H.M. Government that there can be no legal authority either for the grant of Palestinian territory to the Zionists to establish a Jewish State, or for the invasion of Palestine by Jews who have no connection with that country and no right of entry.

3. The invasion of Palestine by Zionist elements has been accompanied by deeds of violence and terrorism whose purpose is the consolidation of the Zionist position in the country, preparatory to the realisation of their ambitions in the neighbouring Arab countries.

4. Therefore, the Governments of the Arab States warned the UNSCOP of the consequences of a recommendation for the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine and informed it that disturbances would occur throughout the Middle East as a result of such a recommendation. The Arabs of Palestine will not accept any measure calculated to put an end to the unity and independence of their country and will wage a relentless war to prevent any such injustice. They are well aware that all the Arab countries will support them and will make available to them men, money and supplies for their defence. The Arab Government, themselves will not be able to suppress the rising feelings of their peoples following the wrong done to them, nor to stand with arms folded in face of the danger threatening the whole Arab world, and will be compelled to take decisive steps to repel aggression and to restore the right.

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END

Such an attitude by the Arab peoples and their Governments will not be anomalous as it has been proved to them on many occasions that, in arming themselves and undertaking terroristic and warlike activities to drive out the Arabs of Palestine, the Zionists depend on material and moral aid from certain foreign Governments and from certain bodies and organisations encouraged by these Governments. In addition the disarmament of the Jews, in order to suppress their terroristic activities, has been the subject of repeated and fruitless demands and protests by the Arab Governments to the abovementioned Governments.

5- The Iraqi Government, which is still bound by close ties to His Britannic Majesty's Government, therefore considers it its duty to call the attention of H.M. Government to the real danger which threatens peace and security in the Middle East and to lay upon H.M. Government the responsibility for all events which may arise from any decision calculated to infringe the right of Palestine to be an independent Arab State.

The Ministry avail themselves of the opportunity to express their highest consideration and esteem.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy,
BAGDAD.

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